IN THE SPECIFICAITON

Please amend the specification as follows:

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4 is amended as follows:

In accordance ~~with the~~ first aspect the present invention provides a parallel counter which is based on algebraic properties of symmetric ~~functions~~. Each of the plurality of binary output bits is generated as a symmetric function of a plurality of binary ~~input bits~~ to a plurality of the binary output bits are each generated as a symmetric function of a plurality of a binary ~~input~~ bits.